

Remarks/Arguments

Responsive to the Official Action mailed June 15, 2004 in which the drawings, were objected to, claims 3, 4, 13, and 14 were rejected, and claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 15-18 were allowed, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of claims 1-18 in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for a number of reasons. First, the Examiner objected to the drawings because they do not include the following reference characters included in the specification: 10 (strapping machine); 36 (hub); and 40 (top edge). Applicant has amended FIGS. 1-4 to show these reference numerals.

Next, the Examiner objected to FIGS. 1 and 3 because they include reference numeral 28, which is not mentioned in the specification. Applicant has amended FIGS. 1 and 3 to remove this inaccurate reference numeral, replacing it with 36, the correct reference number.

Third, the Examiner objected to the drawings because they do not show the "biasing element" recited in original claims 3 and 13. Claims 3 and 13 have been amended, as discussed below, to remove their inclusion of a biasing element, rendering this objection moot.

Finally, the Examiner objected to FIGS. 4 and 5 because they were photographs. As discussed above, Applicant has furnished replacement black ink formal drawings for FIGS. 4 and 5.

Now turning to the Examiner's rejection of claims 3, 4, 13, and 14, the Examiner first rejected claims 3 and 13 because they failed to comply with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 3 and 13 each recited "including a biasing element for biasing the latching element to a latched position." As the Examiner noted, the written description failed to describe in detail the structure of the biasing element and its mechanical relationship to the latching element, support panel, and/or frame. Applicant has amended claims 3 and 13 to recite a hook portion instead, which is supported in the specification.

Claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards

Serial No. 10/600,233

Amendment A

Art Unit 3721

Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2004

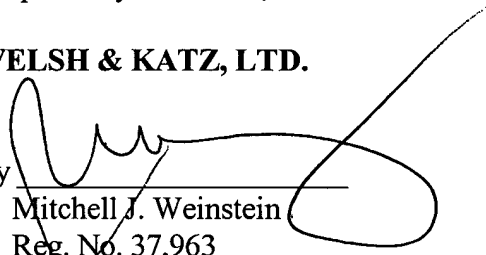
as the invention. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has amended claims 4 and 14 to replace the unsupported recitation of "the door" with "the support panel," for which claims 1 and 10 provide proper antecedent support, respectively.

Applicant believes that these amendments render claims 1-18 in condition for allowance, and that no fee is due in connection with the present amendment. If, however, there is a fee due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, or address any outstanding formal issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 16, 2004

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FIG. 1

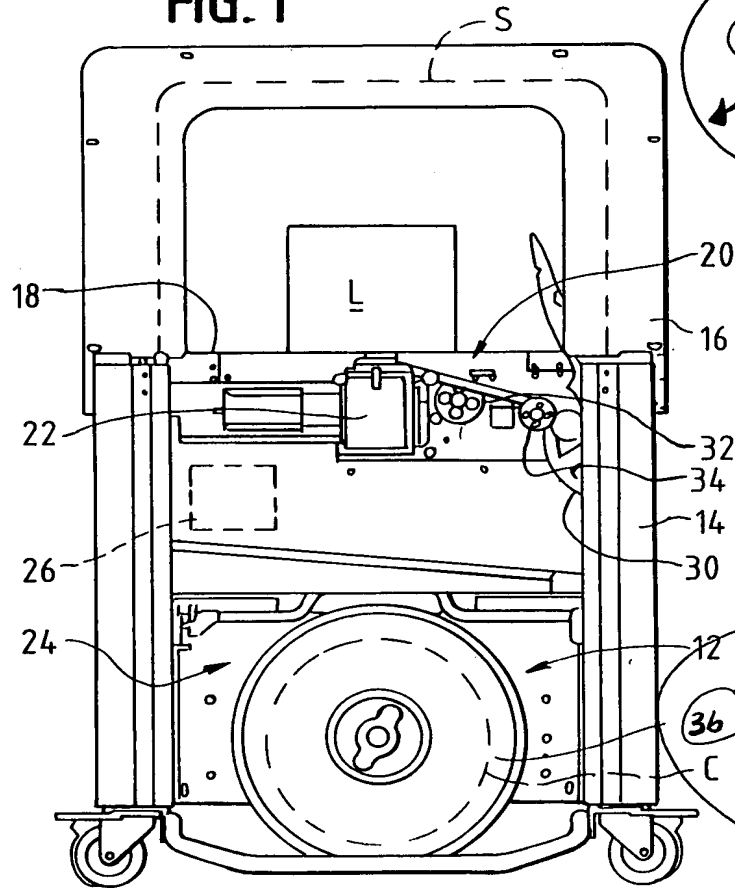


FIG. 2

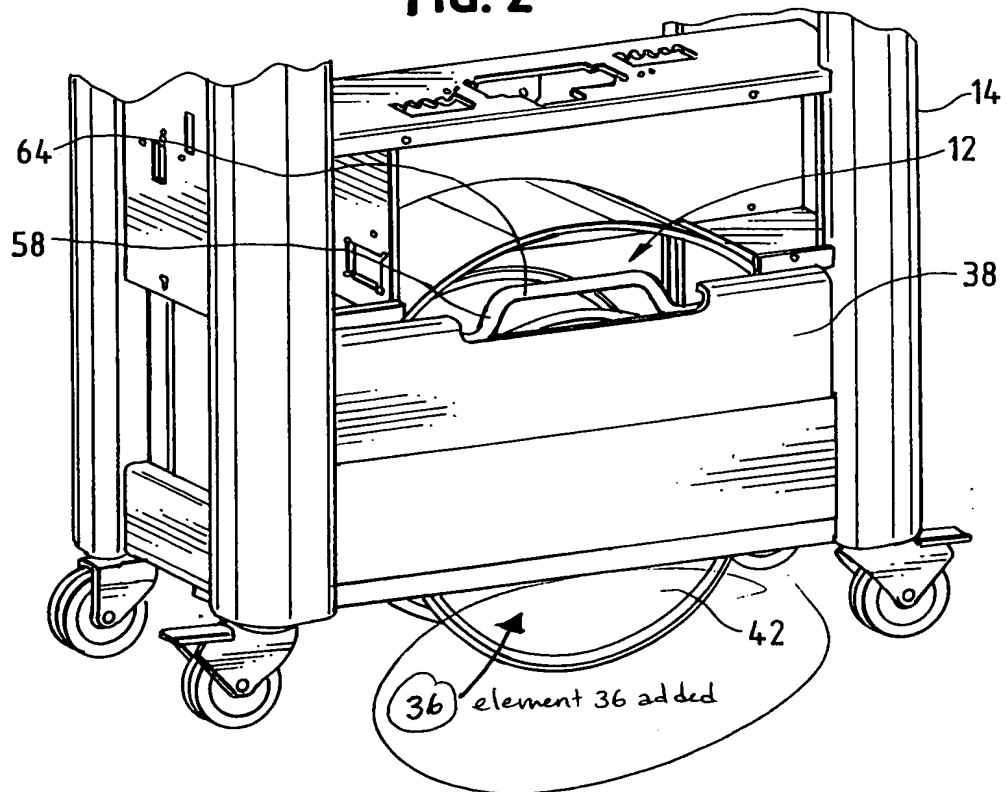


FIG. 3

FIG. 5

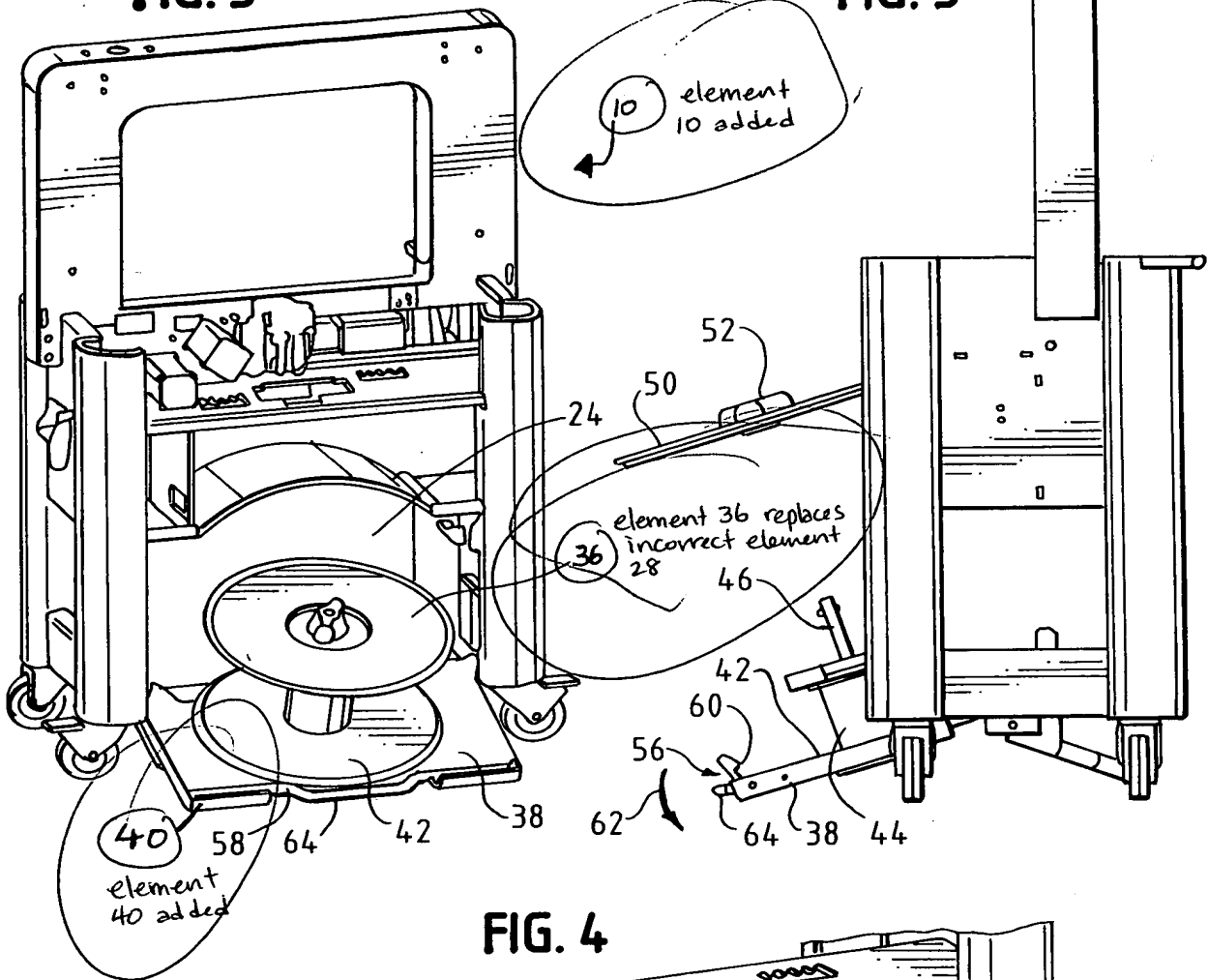


FIG. 4

